



K4GSO.us

The Oracle

Newsletter of the Silver Springs Radio Club

Oldest Radio Club in Marion County, FL



October 2021

SSRC Update

Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K

HAMFEST 2021

It is almost here! Commercial vendors are lined up but we have limited space for one more. We also have availability for inside tables for individuals, so if you want to haul out your excess or rarely used equipment – now is the time to sign-up. These inside tables are limited and will be on a first-come first-served basis.

Now, this is important – over the last year a number of you have signed up to work Hamfest. Hopefully, your plans have not changed. What I would like to ask each of you is to go to the K4GSO.US website and under Event Signup click on the Hamfest link and signup - again. Yes, I know you already did that, but we are capturing the days and times you are available so that we can properly allocate manpower to the tasks that must be completed. Please do this – humor me – OK. For those who have not signed up and can help either or both days – now's your chance. Same drill as above – sign-up on the website.

MEMBERSHIP

Our club continues to grow and we are up to 85 members. Our three newest members are Ed Eades, K2HNC, Extra; Denise Eades, Technician; and Eric Richter, Technician. We're glad you are here! Please welcome each and help them get involved with club activities. Invite your friends and neighbors who are hams, or interested in becoming one, to join and get involved.

MEETING VENUES

As has been previously reported, the county is planning to convert Green Clover Hall into a COVID monoclonal treatment clinic in the next few weeks. The county is not sure exactly when this will occur because equipment is in route from somewhere. The main meeting room will be totally off-limits as it will be converted to a sterile environment. We will have access to our club shack/equipment room, but we will need to limit that as much as possible.

Next Club Meeting

Tuesday, October 19

**Marion County Sheriff's Office
Emergency Operations Center**

692 NW 30th Ave, Ocala, FL

6:00 PM Mentoring & Socializing

7:00 PM Meeting

Program: Contesting, Andy Allen NA4DA

SSRC Board of Directors, first Tuesday, 7:00 PM

St. George Anglican Church Parish Hall
5646 SE 28th Street, Ocala, FL

Upcoming Events

Nov 9 — VE Testing, 7:00 PM
St. George Anglican Church Parish Hall, 5646 SE 28th Street, Ocala, FL

Hamfest — December 4, 2021
[Sign up here](#)

**Silver Springs
Radio Club Net**
K4GSO Repeater

Mondays at 7:30 PM

146.610, PL 123-

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Our use of GCH will be on a week to week basis until converted. When that happens, alternative venues have been arranged for meetings and testing:

General meetings will be at the Marion County Sheriffs Emergency Operations Center

Board meetings and VE Testing will be held at the St. George Anglican Church parish hall, 5646 SE 28th Street, Ocala, FL

Please check the K4GSO.US for any updates on meeting venues.

PARKS ON THE AIR (POTA)

Did you know that there are scheduled official POTA events each year? Well, there are. Here they are:

- Winter Support Your Parks – 3rd full weekend in January
- Spring Support Your Parks – 3rd full weekend in April
- Summer Support Your Parks – 3rd full weekend in July
- Autumn Support Your Parks— 4th full weekend in October

POTA activations are fun and a great way to test your portable setup, antenna, power sources and operating skill. A successful activation only requires one to complete ten QSOs regardless if you initiate or you contact the other station – they all count.

The rules are simple and can be found here: <https://pota.app/#/rules>. With the summer heat now in the rear view mirror, this is a great time of the year to get outside and operate. It is field day - every day, and you don't have to wait for the quarterly events either. What are you waiting for...

VE Update

Jim Burgess, KN4MIV

There were 8 candidates at the September 14th session, and seven passed. We have two new Amateur Extras and five new Technicians (although one of the Techs will end up as a General due to previous license credit.)

K8ZPB, Ronald Lester (Previously KO4QMK) upgrade to Amateur Extra

KO4SZS, Diane Shaler upgrade to Amateur Extra

KO4TMU, Kenneth Wimmers, passed Tech and License Credit to General

KO4TMT, Gerald Heidt new Technician

KO4TMV, Harrison Heath new Technician

KO4TMS, Gerald Landrum new Technician

KO4TMZ, Edith Seagraves new Technician

On-Line Technician Classes

We recently received an email from a ham in Wisconsin who has developed a free on-line Technician education licensing series.

"Greetings from Wisconsin,

2020 has been a difficult year for in-person instruction and education in getting people involved in Amateur Radio. I have been a ham since the 1990's and wanted to give back to our community by putting together an on-line Technician Class License series. I am reaching out to amateur radio clubs to provide them with this resource for potential new hams or those that want a quick Technician Class review. There are 20 presentations covering all the topics related to getting your initial ham radio license and all are posted on YouTube. This content is free and open to all Amateur Radio Clubs to use as an educational tool.

I hope you find the series enjoyable and useful. Please distribute the information to those that may be interested.

Web site: <https://radiosignals.org> (YouTube link is on our site)

73,

Marc – N9WIB

South Central Wisconsin"

Your Nominating Committee is in Action!

Marty Brown, N4GL, Chair

Hats off to the SSRC Nominating Committee for officers and directors for 2022. We will be presenting the slate of officers at our October 19th meeting at our temporary meeting location at the MCSO EOC.

President Bill Gillespie, KW5BG

Vice President Jim Burgess, KN4MIV

Secretary Gray Moffett, KC3DWY

Treasurer Tim Trombley, K8TAT

Immediate Past President, Elbert Wilkinson, KQ3K

Director Mike Condon, W9MNC

Director Hayden Kaufman, N2HAY

Director, Wayne Brown, N4FP

My thanks to committee members:

Kyle Evans, K4XRY

Gray Moffett, KC3DWY

Tim Trombley, K8TAT

At the November 16th meeting additional nominations will be taken from the floor, and the entire slate will be voted upon.

September Operating Day

Gray Moffett, KC3DWY

On Saturday September 25th, in the Green Clover Hall, Hayden Kaufman N2HAY taught a very informative introduction on Digital Mobile Radio communications. He introduced new terms to us including tiers, talk groups, coding plugs, two time slots and TDMA, making the new terms less foreign.

We were able to hear the difference between the analog FM that we know and love and Digital sound quality.

This new radio modality may seem to be complicated to understand at first, so may I quote Oliver Twist in asking for more.

Thanks to Jim, KN4MIV for the photos



QRP SWR/Wattmeter/Dummy Load Kits

By Bert Garcia N8NN

One piece of equipment every ham should have is a dummy load. I have six of them, all serving a different purpose. This article is about two more dummy loads I built specifically aimed at the QRP crowd. When you go to the field with your little QRP radio, you need a small, lightweight dummy load as well as a QRP SWR meter and wattmeter to take along. Here are two low-cost options.

50 Ohm 20-Watt QRP Dummy Load: QRP Labs [1] offers a dummy load kit for \$8.50 that you can build in under an hour. Using twenty 1K ohm 1% resistors in parallel, this dummy load weighs less than 1 ounce, measures 1.7 x 1.4 x 0.6 inches, and works at HF. The resistors are sandwiched between two circuit boards. A diode and capacitor provide a DC voltage that can indicate RF power on a digital multimeter if desired, and a BNC connector provides an easy connection to your QRP radio.

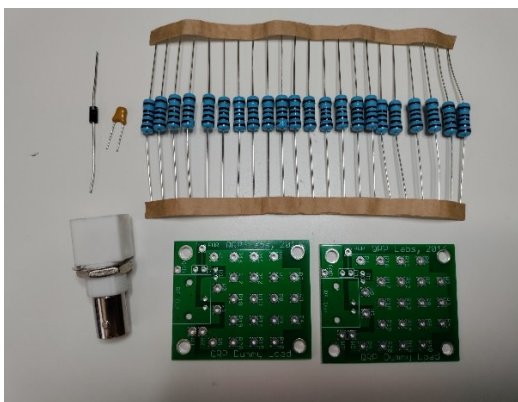


Figure 1: The kit components.

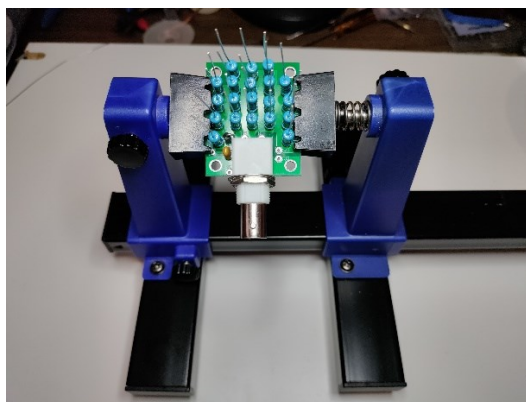


Figure 2: Use a "third hand" to assemble.

Soldering the resistors is much easier if you have something to hold the circuit board, leaving you with two free hands for soldering. The assembly directions are available online and include helpful hints to make building the kit easier. My finished dummy load measured 50.8 ohms, close enough for field work!

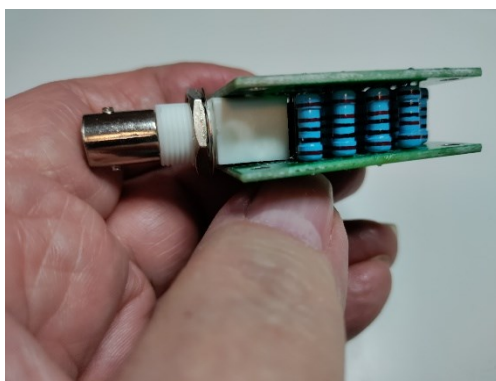


Figure 3: The finished 20-watt dummy load.

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Digital SWR Meter/Wattmeter/Dummy Load: The QRP Guys [3] have taken the dummy load to a whole other level by adding a digital SWR meter and a digital wattmeter. All this is available for \$25 as a kit. The dummy load consists of four 100 ohm 1% 3-watt resistors that will handle 12 watts, good enough for QRP. The digital wattmeter show power from 200mW to 10 watts with accuracy better than 95% for HF, and the SWR meter measures from 1:1 to 15:1. The through losses are very small, so it can stay in your antenna feedline while operating. The software is pre-programmed into the microcontroller. Power to operate the display comes from a 3-volt coin cell battery that provides more than 10 hours of continuous use. The digital display enters a “sleep mode” to conserve battery life and comes alive at the press of a button. Assembly time is about 2 hours, and the instructions are available online.

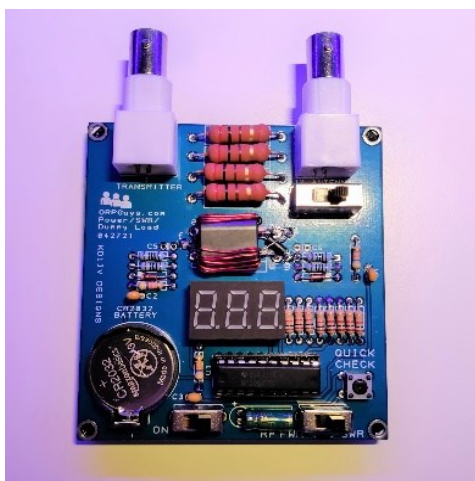


Figure 4: SWR/Wattmeter/Dummy Load

There is an on/off switch, an SWR/wattmeter selector switch, and a switch to select the dummy load or to connect the transceiver directly to the antenna for measuring SWR. The input/output connections are BNC.

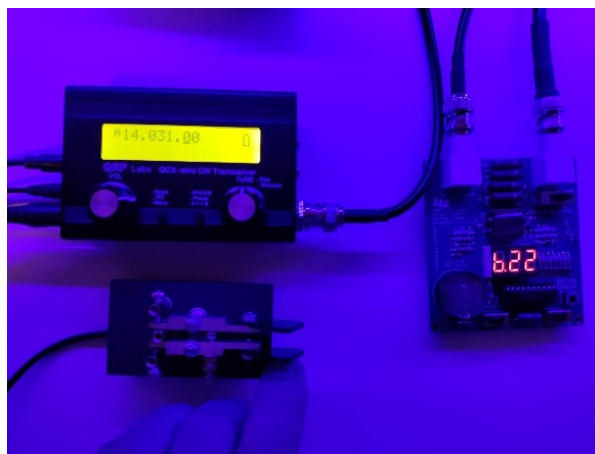


Figure 5: QRP-mini showing 6.22 watts.

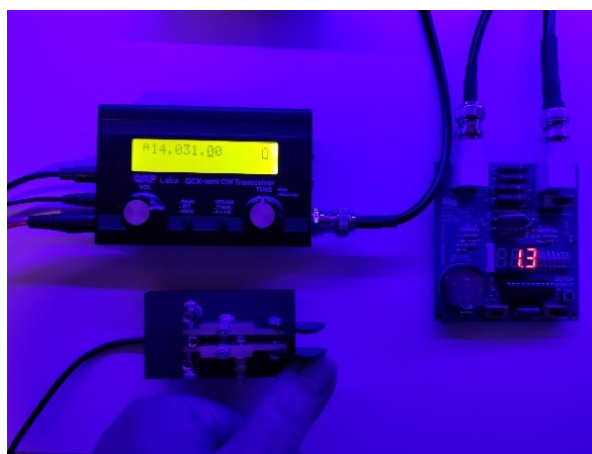


Figure 6: Antenna SWR shows 1.3 to 1.

Figures 5 and 6 were taken in low light so the digital display can be viewed. Here my QCX-mini [4, 5] is putting out 6.22 watts on 20 meters, and my end-fed wire antenna shows the SWR as 1.3 to 1.

The QRP Guys have an inexpensive and accurate portable SWR/Wattmeter/Dummy Load for QRP operators..... and it's fun to build!

By the way, the miniature CW paddle was made for me by Andres Rojo EA3PP [6]. This tiny paddle has a heavy base and is just the thing for portable operation.

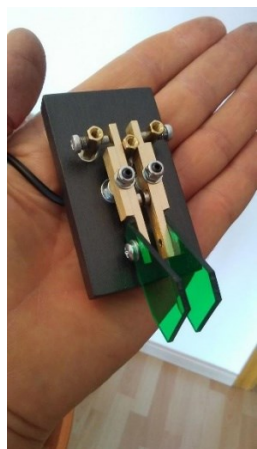


Figure 7: Miniature CW paddle by EA3PP.

References:

1. QRP Labs, <https://grp-labs.com/>.
2. QRPGuys, <https://qrpguys.com/>.
3. QRP Guys, <https://qrpguys.com/qrpguys-power-swr-dummy-load>.
4. *Big Performance, Small Package – QCX-mini*, Bert Garcia N8NN, QST NFL Newsletter, October 2020, <https://arrl-nlf.org>.
5. *Big Performance, Small Package – QCX-mini*, Bert Garcia N8NN, The Oracle, October 2020, <https://k4gso.us>.
6. Andres Rojo EA3PP, <https://www.qrz.com>.



North American SSB Sprint Contest

Jim Burgess, KN4MIV

I recently received the following information from Bob KW8N & NA SSB Sprint Contest Committee:

How about trying a fun **4 hour SSB contest**? It is the **North American SSB Sprint Contest**.

Saturday evening October 23rd here in North America
October 24, 2021 0000 - 0359 UTC

It has some very interesting rules that make it a bit unique and exciting.

Certificates to the top scores in each state/province and/or anyone scoring over 1,200 points.

And there are **Door Prizes** available for recipients who score at least 1,500 points (just takes 50 QSOs and 30 mults) !!!

As well as a **SSB Sprint Worked All States T-Shirt** for those that manage to work all 50 states in the 4 hours. Which actually has been done by multiple participants in the past!

And now we have just added a **SSB Sprint Worked Canada T-Shirt** for those that manage to work all 13 Canadian multipliers in the 4 hours.

Check it all out at <http://ssbsprint.com>

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SSRC Classified Ads

This month we are experimenting with a classified ad section. The SSRC Board of Directors has agreed to allow business advertising in The Oracle. If you have a business service and want to place an ad in this section, contact Marty Brown, n4gl.marty@gmail.com.

At this time we are not charging for advertising space, however the board may approve fees in the future.

This section is not intended for radio equipment. Those items can be listed on the k4gso.us website at no charge <https://k4gso.us/traders/>.

2021 SSRC Officers

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Vice President— [Jim Burgess, KN4MIV](#)
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Treasurer— [Tom Lufkin, W4DAX](#)
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SSRC Information